

South Carolina State Board of Education

The State Board of Education is established in Article XI § 1 of South Carolina Constitution. The Board consists of 17 members, one appointed from each of the state's 16 judicial circuits by the legislators representing the various circuits, and a 17th member appointed by the governor. Members are appointed for four-year terms.

Duties:

The board is the policy-making body for public elementary and secondary education in South Carolina. According to state law (SC.Code Ann. § 59-5-60), the South Carolina Board of Education has the power to:

- Adopt policies, rules and regulations for the governance of the state's public elementary and secondary schools.
- Annually approve a budget request to be submitted to the Budget and Control Board and to the General Assembly.
- Adopt standards for any phase of education considered necessary to aid in providing adequate educational opportunities and facilities.
- Prescribe and enforce rules for the examination and certification of teachers.
- Grant state teachers' certificates and revoke them for immoral or unprofessional conduct, or evident unfitness for teaching.
- Approve textbooks and other instructional materials.
- Appoint committees as needed to carry out the orderly function of the board.
- Cooperate with the State Superintendent at all times in efforts to constantly improve the state's public education system.
- Assume other responsibilities, exercise other powers and perform other duties as assigned by law or as the board may find necessary to aid in carrying out the purpose and objectives of the Constitution of the state.

**SC State Board of Education
Update: Goals and Objectives**

The State Board of Education's mission is to provide a leadership role in helping South Carolina set policy and direction to transform teaching and learning so that students are prepared with the necessary knowledge and skills, including innovation, to compete globally and live a productive life.

Advocating for Students by Supporting Teaching and Learning

The South Carolina State Board of Education held its annual retreat on February 12-13, 2013. Consequently, Board members identified the following as goals/objectives to be achieved during the 2013-2014 calendar years:

- Provide sound policies for student success.
- Serve as an advocate for students and educators.
- Support a fair and research-based evaluation system.
- Support the acquisition of needed technology to include adequate bandwidth.
- Support the successful implementation of the Common Core State Standards.
- Support the successful implementation of the Smarter Balanced Assessments.
- Support the current Innovation Initiative coordinated by New Carolina.
- Seek regulatory relief when appropriate for schools and school districts.
- Support the South Carolina Reading Achievement Systemic Initiative.
- Recognize exemplary programs, practices, and/or people by celebrating excellence in schools and school districts.
- Annually report progress toward goals attainment to the governor, legislature, education community, and the general public.

What follows are restatements of the above items framed around goals which are associated with respective committees and the full State Board of Education.

Policy and Legislative Committee

Duties:

The Policy and Legislative (PL) Committee reviews, recommends, and/or proposes regulations governing the operation of the state's public education system which have not been assigned to one of the Board's other standing committees. The PL Committee is led by the State Board of Education Chair and its members include the chairs of the other SBE committees.

Goal: Provide sound policies for student success

The State Board of Education will provide leadership to develop and implement the provisions of state and federal laws and regulations in a way that improves and expands opportunities for all of South Carolina's students to excel academically.

Objectives:

The State Board will . . .

- Provide waivers and flexibility to school districts and will eliminate State Board policies that impede flexibility in order to assist the school districts to meet the individual needs of their students.
- Annually report progress toward goals attainment to the governor, legislature, education community, and the general public.
- Establish and maintain communications with legislative delegations, the education community, and the general public.

Standards, Learning and Accountability Committee

Duties:

The Standards, Learning, and Accountability (SLA) Committee reviews, recommends, and/or proposes regulations and guidelines that are related to standards, learning, and accountability.

Goal I: Continue to evaluate and improve standards and assessments.

Objective I: Continue to monitor the development and implementation of Common Core Standards and new statewide assessments.

Goal II: Encourage and expand opportunities for teaching and learning, and cultivate a positive climate between stakeholders and the State Board.

Objective I: Support and promote the acquisition of needed technology to include adequate bandwidth.

Objective II: Provide feedback to the full Board on improving and expanding learning opportunities by working cooperatively with partners and promoting new and innovative partnerships appropriate to the charges of the Board regarding:

- Strategy I: Support the South Carolina Reading Achievement Systemic Initiative by attending appropriate meetings and providing constructive feedback.
- Strategy 2: Support the current Innovation Initiative coordinated by New Carolina for extended learning opportunities by attending appropriate meetings and providing constructive feedback.

Goal III: Review, suggest, and propose the revision and/or elimination of impediments that impact school district personnel's ability to make decisions to meet the needs of students.

Objective I: Make recommendations to the full Board (based on requests from LEAs relative to the charges of the SLA Committee) on the elimination or revision of Board policies that infringe on a LEAs ability to act in an autonomous manner.

- Strategy 1: Seek regulatory relief, when appropriate, for school districts as requested by LEAs.

- Strategy 2: Present strategies to the full Board for consideration that will amend state policies and other mandates that interfere with providing necessary flexibility for local autonomy. This may include policy revisions that require action via the legislative process.

Objective II: Recognize exemplary and innovative programs and practices.

- Strategy 1: Seek recommendations from LEAs for such practices.
- Strategy 2: Extend an invitation to the identified LEA or person(s) to present a synopsis of the program, or practice, to the full Board.
- Strategy 3: Use student achievement data to identify exemplary programs and disseminate information about the programs and practices to other LEAs and the Board.

Goal IV: Provide an annual report of SLA progress toward goals attainment to the full Board for reflection and for use in future decision making regarding the charges of the Board.

Objective I: Validate activities of SLA as related to goals of the Board

- Strategy 1: Provide an annual report of the SLA progress toward goal attainment to the full Board.
- Strategy 2: Seek assistance from United States Department of Education (USDE) and other like data resources organizations for collection of data.

Education Professions Committee

Duties:

The Education Professions (EP) Committee reviews, recommends, and/or proposes regulations, guidelines, and policies that relate to educator preparation, certification, alternative certification and preparation, evaluation, professional development, educator recruitment and retention.

Goal: **Create conditions to recruit and retain highly qualified and effective teachers and administrators**

The State Board of Education will establish policies and standards that improve preparation, recruitment, and retention of South Carolina's educational personnel, including meaningful and continuous professional development, especially in teacher shortage areas and in hard-to-staff schools.

Objectives:

- The State Board of Education will ensure that a new teacher evaluation system is well under development.
- This system must be fair, efficient and include:
 - a) a refined ADEPT teacher performance formal evaluation instrument which provides a score for all teachers.
 - b) a revised formal review cycle.
 - c) a plan for including value-added information into teacher evaluations where possible.
 - d) a plan for including other measures of teacher effectiveness.

Educator Licensure Cases Committee

Duties:

The Educator Licensure Cases (ELC) Committee has the authority to grant initial educator certificates, to review educator certificate matters, and to make recommendations to the State Board regarding adverse action to be taken against an educator's certificate.

Innovation and Finance Committee

Duties:

The Innovation and Finance Committee reviews the annual budget of the State Board of Education and recommends budget revisions or approvals to the Board. The Committee also reviews, recommends, or proposes regulations related to school finance and operations, community and parent services, public school choice, charter schools, school safety, and other innovative programs.

Full Board

Goal: Create conditions resulting in the nurture and development of young learners

The State Board of Education will work cooperatively with individuals and groups to promote partnerships to help ensure that all young children are ready to enter kindergarten with the skills necessary for success.

- Support Pre-K initiatives.

Goal: Provide leadership to create safe and secure school environments.

- Support the funding of school safety programs by the legislature.